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Richard Becker, piano

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UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Richard Becker, *piano*

with guest
Martin Ryle, *reader*

The program will feature a new composition by Mr. Becker performed in conjunction with his original poetic sequence, *FATES*. UR History Professor Martin Ryle will read the poetry. This work, which will be performed during the program's second half, contains some mature language and subject matter and may not be suitable for all audiences.



JANUARY 31, 1999, 3 PM
CAMP CONCERT HALL
BOOKER HALL OF MUSIC
GEORGE M. MODLIN CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Richard Becker has played solo recitals at venues including Tully Hall, Town Hall, Library of Congress, and at the National Gallery of Art and at over 60 universities and colleges. As a chamber music musician he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Kaufmann Hall (of the 92nd St. Y), Washington University, Brattleboro Music Center, Harvard, and in Richmond at venues including the Virginia Museum, Carpenter Center, the Mosque, Virginia Commonwealth University Performing Arts Center, as well as at the University of Richmond, where he collaborates frequently with Shanghai Quartet.



Richard Becker

Recently, as piano recitalist, Mr. Becker participated in and performed at the French Piano Institute's French Music Festival in Paris, Salle Cortot, July 20, 1996. And also in 1996 the F.P.I. in collaboration with the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris awarded him a recital at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. (October 20, 1996) for "excellence in [the] performance" of Debussy (Jurists: Narcis Bonet, Roy Howat, and Roger Muraro). As part of his 1997 residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris for creative work in composition and poetry, Becker also performed his own work and music of Chopin. Critical response to his interpretations of French piano music is typified by the *Richmond Times Dispatch* in 1997:

"...Becker summed up Debussy's musical eyes, ears, and temperament...(Preludes, Book I)

Richard Becker's compositions have been performed at the Tanglewood Music Festival, Peabody Conservatory, Boston's Gardner Museum; the National Gallery of Art's American Music Festival, Town Hall; Williams College, the Eastman School of Music (1993), Bennington College, University of Connecticut, Bucknell, Hudson River Museum, Virginia Museum, Ecole Normale de Musique (1996), Cité Internationale des Arts de Paris (1997), and at University of Richmond, among others. They have been heard over NPR, the Voice of America, and have been performed by him, the Peabody Trio, pianist Kit Young, pianist Claudia Stevens, and pianist Nancy Burton Garrett, by the Roxbury Chamber Players, University of Richmond's Currents and Schola Cantorum, by members of the Richmond Symphony, and others. He has been a MacDowell Colony Fellow (1990), a Resident poet at the Vermont Studio Center (1998), and has been nominated for an award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1991) for his musical composition. His *Five Mementos*, is recorded by pianist Nancy Burton Garrett on the CRS Label.

Since 1993, poetry by Richard Becker has appeared in *America*, *American Poets and Poetry* (January, 1999), *Bottomfish*, *Columbia*, *Explorations* (1998), *fuel*, and is forthcoming in *Visions* and in *American Poets and Poetry*.

About FATES:

The poet Robert Creeley recently remarked in an e-mail to Mr. Becker, "The dense sensual feel of the language and the way you keep the frame both various and yet consistent as a focus seem to me very good. It's really a great size and shape, like they say — delightful!"

Martin Ryle, Professor of History, came to the University of Richmond in 1964 from Emory University, where he earned his Ph.D. A specialist in Soviet history, he has traveled often to Russia and the Soviet Union, and has written several scholarly articles relating to Soviet history and politics. He has twice been named Distinguished Educator by colleagues, students, and trustees at the University. Ryle is also something of a performer, most notably as trombonist with ASBOL, a traditional jazz band made up of faculty. In addition, he has acted in productions both on and off campus, most recently playing the Narrator and the Mystery Man in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, staged in the Modlin Center for the Fine Arts at the University.

• • PROGRAM • •

Sonata in C minor, H. XVI:20

(1771)

Allegro moderato
Andante con moto
Finale: Allegro

Franz Joseph Haydn

(1732-1809)

Barcarolle in F-sharp major, op. 60

(1845-1846)

Frédéric Chopin

(1810-1849)

Gnomereigen (from Études de concert)

(1862-1863)

Franz Liszt

(1811-1886)

Noctuelles (from Miroirs)

(1905)

Maurice Ravel

(1875-1937)

Suite

Tiento (1998)
Variations (1991)
Dance (1999)
Nocturne (1991)

Richard Becker

(b. 1943)

• • INTERMISSION • •

(Please note: the following material contains some explicit erotic language)

FATES. A poetic sequence for reader with piano interludes

(1996-1998)

Becker

Martin Ryle, reader

(In memory of Tom Gregory)

Prologue

I.*

II.

III.*

IV.

V.

VI.

VII.

VIII.*

IX.

* Nos. I, III, and VIII are forthcoming in *Visions*, the international journal of poetry.